

Draft

Statewide Oil and Gas Environmental Impact Statement and Amendment of the Powder River and Billings Resources Management Plans

Lead Agencies: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management; and the State of Montana: Board of Oil and Gas Conservation and Department of Environmental Quality.

Type of Action: Administrative

Jurisdiction: State: Statewide.

BLM: Powder River RMP Area—Powder River, Carter, and Treasure counties and portions of Big Horn, Custer and Rosebud counties. Billings RMP Area—Carbon, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Wheatland, and Yellowstone counties and the remaining portion of Big Horn County.

Abstract: This document addresses alternatives for managing federal and state oil and gas administered by the Miles City and Billings Field Offices, Bureau of Land Management, and the State of Montana. The BLM planning area comprises approximately 1,506,011 acres of federally managed surface and 5,009,784 acres of federal mineral estate.

Five alternatives have been developed to evaluate the impacts related to the various development scenarios associated with CBM exploration and production. Alternative A, the No Action Alternative, would continue existing management. Alternative B would allow CBM development while emphasizing the resource protection. Alternative C would emphasize CBM development with minimal environmental restrictions. Alternative D would encourage CBM exploration and development while maintaining existing land uses. Alternative E is the Preferred Alternative and would allow for CBM exploration and development while minimizing the impacts to environmental resources.

The five alternative plans presented in Chapter 2 focus on allocating resource uses and prescribing general management actions. The impacts expected from implementing each of the alternatives are analyzed in Chapter 4.

When this document is published in final form, it will provide a comprehensive framework for managing oil and gas resources on public lands in the Powder River and Billings RMP areas of the Miles City and Billings Field Offices and state-administered land in Montana. Further information regarding this draft environmental impact statement and resource management plan amendment can be obtained from the address below. Comments will be accepted for 90 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of filing of this draft in the *Federal Register*. Comments received by that date will be considered in the final environmental impact statement and resource management plan amendment. When commenting, please type or print your name and complete mailing address and send to:

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